

USDA Orders Garry E. Richerson to Cease and Desist

WASHINGTON, April 25, 2007 - On February 13, 2007, the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) entered into a consent decision with Garry E. Richerson (Richerson) Lebanon, Kentucky, ordering him to cease and desist from:

- endangering payment to livestock sellers by not reimbursing the account used for seller payment in a timely fashion;
- failing to pay sellers for the sale of their livestock within the time period required by the regulations; and
- issuing checks without having sufficient funds to cover checks.

Charges were dismissed against Choate's Stockyard, Inc. (Choate), Sonora, Kentucky, as a result of the dissolution of the corporation which was filed on January 5, 2004.

The decision resolves charges that were filed February 11, 2007, in which GIPSA alleged that Choate and Richerson in March of 2002:

- had shortages in their custodial account (used for the purpose of paying sellers of livestock) which were caused by failure to make timely deposits to the account, and
- failed to remit the full amount due from the sale price of livestock within the time period required by the regulations.

The Packers and Stockyards Act is a fair trade practice and payment protection law that promotes fair and competitive marketing environments for the livestock, meat, and poultry industries.